

Vavilov Program Speaker Biographies

Peter Pringle

Is an author and co-author of nine previous books, including: *Food, Inc.*; *Those are Real Bullets, Aren't They?*; and most recently a novel, *Day of the Dandelion*. He was a foreign correspondent for the *Sunday Times* (London) and *The Observer* (UK), and a former Moscow bureau chief for *The Independent* (UK). He has also written for the *New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *The New Republic*, and *The Nation*.

Yuri Vavilov

Senior Scientific Associate, Lebedev Physical Institute -- Son of Nikolai, a physicist living in Moscow, published selected texts of Nikolai's secret police dossier. Yuri is the keeper of the family archive, custodian of boxes of scientific papers, letters, and photographs that survived his father's arrest.

Robert Bertram

Chief, Multi-Lateral Programs Division of the Center for Economic Growth and Agricultural Development, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) -- Rob leads the International Research and Biotechnology Team at USAID. He manages funding for the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) system, and is responsible for USAID's agricultural biotechnology initiative. Rob has served USAID for more than 20 years and comes from a plant breeding and genetics background, with degrees from Universities of California-Davis, Minnesota, and Maryland.

Karen Williams

Coordinator for the USDA Plant Exploration Program -- Karen is a Botanist in the USDA, Agricultural Research Service (ARS) National Germplasm Resources Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland. She had led or participated in ten plant explorations: three trips to Ecuador; four trips to Paraguay; two expeditions to Guatemala; and one expedition within the United States. Karen's other interests include

in situ conservation of crop landraces and wild crop relatives.

Richard Bennett

National Program Leader for Crop Diseases, Agricultural Research Service (ARS), USDA Rick is the Acting Director for the ARS international research programs. He is a research plant pathologist with responsibility for more than 120 research projects related to: genetic improvement; disease resistance; integrated pest management; postharvest phytosanitation; application of phylogenetics of fungi to enhance food safety; area-wide pest management program for methyl bromide alternatives; and many others. Rick has served ARS for 21 years.

Susan Fugate

Head Special Collections, National Agricultural Library, ARS, USDA Susan directs the collection and preservation of, and access to NAL's special collections (rare books, manuscripts, and works of art); a position she's held since 1995. She works closely with the University of Maryland Libraries and the College of Information Studies to collect, preserve and make accessible manuscript materials relating to the history of U.S. agriculture. Susan joined NAL in 1983.

Gary Nabhan

Professor in Research Social Sciences, Southwest Center, University of Arizona and Author

Gary's most recent book is "Where Food Comes From, Retracing Nikolay Vavilov's Quest to End Famine". Gary has been honored with the John Burroughs Medal for nature writing; a MacArthur "genius" award; a Lannan Literary Award; a Pew Fellowship in Conservation and Environment; and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society of Conservation Biology.

For more information about USDA Plant Explorers see the Dorsett-Morse Oriental Agricultural Exploration Expedition Collection:
<http://www.nal.usda.gov> > NAL Collections > Special Collections > Guide to the Collections